Lima, Peru Summer Clinics

Program Fee: $750.00

Lima is also home to extreme poverty, especially in the densely populated settlements on its outskirts. These areas, known as “pueblos jovenes,” have grown rapidly in recent years, as people migrated from the rural sierra of Peru to Lima in search of economic opportunity and an escape from the instability and violence of the 1980s. People also continue to migrate to Lima from rural areas of Peru in search of better access to basic services -- such as health care, education, and work opportunities -- that are often limited or completely absent in their home communities. While some of the older settlements have in time become incorporated into the rest of Lima, the rapid and continued population growth in these areas has left many communities plagued by low wages, high unemployment, and a lack of attention from the state.

**TRAVEL DATES:**

* May 17-25
* May 24- June 1
* May 31- June 8
* June 7-15
* June 14-22
* June 21-29
* June 28-July 6
* August 2-10
* August 9-17
* August 16-24

Cusco, Peru Summer Clinics

Program Fee: $800.00

The largely indigenous population of Cusco and its surrounding communities continue to live in extreme poverty. In the rural mountainside pueblos, roads are often unpaved and unsafe, schools are stocked with only the most basic teaching supplies, and the nearest hospital may be up to two hours away by car. Like the rural communities we serve in Ecuador, residents of Cusco and its surrounding territory strongly identify with the indigenous Quechua culture, and the economy relies heavily on agriculture. Heavy rains and earthquakes frequently produce further hardships, as evidenced by the January 2010 flooding, which wiped out roads, utility grids, and structures alike. Not spared from the destruction were many of the area's few medical clinics.

**TRAVEL DATES:**

* May 17-25
* May 24- June 1
* May 31- June 8
* June 14-22
* June 21-29
* June 28 – July 6
* August 2- 10
* August 9-17

Riobamba, Ecuador Summer Clinics

Program Cost: $750.00

As the agricultural goods upon which the economy relies continue to decline in value, most of the residents of Cebadas remain extremely poor and thus lack access to many basic resources. Lack of transportation and sanitation infrastructure results in a high incidence of otherwise preventable diseases. Malnutrition is common, especially in children, because more nutritious food products that families grow are sold rather than consumed. The hard physical labor of mountain farming from an early age can also lead to premature health problems.

Access to medical care in Cebadas is incredibly limited; the closest hospital is up to two and a half hours away from the communities that surround the town center. Consequently, transportation and lost productivity costs – not to speak of the cost of medical treatment itself – prohibit most residents of Cebadas from obtaining adequate medical care.

**TRAVEL DATES:**

* May 17-25
* June 7-15
* August 2-10

Tena, Ecuador Summer Clinics

Program Cost: $770.00

Poor sanitation and lack of clean water in the region has led to the spread of diseases like malaria and dengue fever. The environmental problems caused by the large-scale industrial extraction of natural resources in the Amazon rainforest have also resulted in serious health complications for its inhabitants, including higher rates of cancer and skin diseases. Although oil companies were found guilty and required to pay billions of dollars in damages in one of the biggest environmental lawsuits on record in 2011, oil prospecting continues to be a point of contention in the Ecuadorean Amazon.

**TRAVEL DATES:**

* June 14-22
* August 9-17
* August 16-24

Esmeraldas, Ecuador Summer Clinics

Program Cost: $770.00

Esmeraldas is a port city located on the northwest coast of Ecuador. The city is home to the majority of the Afro-Ecuadorian population; the province is the most ethnically-diverse in the nation. The main exports are wood and agricultural resources, yet the establishment of Esmeraldas as Ecuador's largest oil refinery has also turned it into an important commercial center. Esmeraldas was considerably affected by the El Niño events of the late 1990s, when mudslides caused explosions, fatalities, and environment damage due to ruptured pipe lines. Due to these events, the tourism industry is still recovering, yet Esmeraldas remains of interest to tourists for its beautiful beaches, tropical forests, and handicrafts.

The population estimate as of 2010 was 188,694 people, with 66 percent of them living in an "urban situation." In a meeting with MEDLIFE staff members, residents of Esmeraldas reported drug abuse, pregnancy at a young age, and lack of access to medical care as issues that desperately need to be addressed.

**TRAVEL DATES:**

* May 24-June 1
* June 21-29
* June 28 – July 6

South America 2 - Week Summer Clinics

Program Cost: $1520.00 Riobamba/Tena/Esmeraldas

$1550.00 Lima/Cusco

**TRAVEL DATES:**

* Riobamba and Esmeraldas, Ecuador - May 17- June 1
* Cusco and Lima, Peru - May 24- June 8
* Riobamba and Tena, Ecuador – June 7 – 22
* Cusco and Lima, Peru – June 7 -22
* Riobamba and Esmeraldas, Ecuador – June 21 – July 6
* Cusco and Lima, Peru – June 21 – July 6
* Cusco and Lima, Peru - August 2-17
* Riobamba and Tena, Ecuador – August 2-17

(Moshi) Kilimanjaro, Tanzania Summer Clinics

Program Cost: $850.00

Over one third of all households in Tanzania live in poverty, on $1.00 a day or less, and children and rural populations are disproportionately affected. According to UNICEF in Tanzania, “Malnutrition -- most prevalent in young children from poorest or rural households -- is the single biggest contributor to child mortality, with malaria, anemia, pneumonia, diarrhea and HIV and AIDS also being key causes.” Though Tanzania has made great strides in recent years, poverty is still widespread, and the growing AIDS epidemic represents a serious threat. The country’s educational system lacks the capacity to keep up with its growing population.

**TRAVEL DATES:**

* May 17-25
* June 14-22
* August 2-10

New Delhi, India Summer Clinics

Program Cost: $850.00

Delhi’s high population density means that resources such as water and electricity are in high demand and limited supply. Over 50% of Delhi residents are though to live in slums, without water, electricity, sanitation, sewage system or proper housing. Corruption and crime rates are high.

Despite a powerful economy, India contains the world’s highest concentration of people living in poverty. Healthcare issues include the high rate of maternal and infant mortality and diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis, and heart disease. 42% of Indian children under the age of 3 are malnourished. Poor sanitation and lack of safe drinking water contribute to fatal conditions such as diarrheal disease and waterborne illness.